

BETHANY COLLEGE

The Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the

NEOTROPHIAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

A Memorable Occasion—Eloquent Address by Hon. J. F. Merryman, of St. Louis—How Old Bethany has been Neglected by Those Who Owe It so Much—"Campbellite" Not a Term of Reproach—Tributes of Great Men to Alexander Campbell's Virtue—Future of the College.

The Neotrophian Literary Society of Bethany College was founded November 5, 1841, and on Thursday, November 5, 1891, it celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary.

During the half century of its existence this society has been an active force among the institutions of Bethany College, numbering on its rolls more than half of the students that have attended the college, many of whom have distinguished themselves in various callings. The exercises on this occasion were held in the chapel hall, which was filled with a large and intelligent audience, and consisted of an oration by W. W. Wiegler, of Ohio, as representative of the present membership of the society; subject, "The Hero of To-day," and the anniversary address by the Hon. John F. Merryman, of St. Louis, Mo., of the class of '73; subject, "Then and Now."

Mr. Merryman's address was most warmly received by the large audience present, and its telling points, which were many, were loudly applauded. After an eloquent introductory the speaker read letters of congratulation from men of note who went out from Neotrophian's halls, among whom may be mentioned Prof. I. W. McGarvey, of the Kentucky University; Rev. W. J. Loos, editor of the *Apostolic Guide*, of Louisville, Ky.; Prof. A. R. Milligan, of the Kentucky University; Rev. George Darrie, Frankfort, Ky., and Judge Langston Bacon, of Kansas City, Mo. The reading of these letters aroused great enthusiasm. Mr. Merryman then proceeded with his address, gave an interesting retrospect of the formation of the great American republic, with an account of its growth and progress, and drew a picture of its wonderful standing to-day among the nations of the world, and closed with the following tribute to Bethany college and its founder, Alexander Campbell:

A DESERVED TRIBUTE.

As Bethany in the past was a recruiting station for the home missionary field, sending the followers of the cross into the wilds of our western territories, so now under the guidance of your temporary president (whom by the way I hope soon will be your permanent president) Bethany has advanced to the higher plane, and her missionaries are now bearing the gospel of the Galilean to the further known confines of civilization.

It must be confessed, however, and I say it with reluctance, that Bethany College is not keeping pace with the world's progress and filling the position it should fill. This through no fault of Bethany, or the men and women who labor here, who make daily sacrifices here, and who have died here, and left their families in want, in order that this old seat of learning should not perish, but live and hold her head up among the institutions of our land.

Seargent S. Prentiss, the Mississippi orator, on one occasion asserted that the Irish had fought well in all battles but their own. So it can be said of the six thousand students, and the seven hundred alumni of Bethany College, they have gone from here, and built up schools, academies and colleges, and aided all institutions of learning, except the one which in an intellectual sense gave them birth and being. Nor are the seven hundred thousand communicants of what is known as the Christian church, or the Disciples wholly blameless in the matter.

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL'S WORK.

Bethany College was founded by Alexander Campbell, who found the Christian world composed of a mass of discordant and divided elements, who used the Bible merely to prove their creeds and constitutions which they had devised were sound and correct; by Alexander Campbell, who successfully met in debate Robert Owen, a Bishop Parcell, and a Nathan Rice, and upon whose brow posterity has placed the crown of victory; by Alexander Campbell, who found men on their knees rolling in the saw dust for hours at a time, praying for an angry God to appease his wrath, and the doors of the church opened on the condition that a man could relate that when going along the road in the fence corner or in some other uninhabitable spot, the Holy Spirit appeared and came down and converted him, the doors of the church being closed to the truthful men who could not recite such balderdash; by Alexander Campbell, who, finding a pall over the whole religious world, and who, by the destruction of creeds, let in for the first time in eighteen centuries the daylight of God's holy word, and the mighty work of whose mighty brain is still going on, and can be seen to-day in the crumbling of creeds all around us; by Alexander Campbell, who travelled hundreds, aye, thousands of miles on foot, on horseback, by the steamboat, on the cars and across the mighty deep; who risked the dangers and perils of land and sea, at his own expense, without obtaining a dollar from a single human being for his services, in order that he could plant the banner of the cross, free of superstition, and free of tradition; and yet Bethany College is in a starved and stunted condition!

Now, most worthy president of Bethany College, I say, to-night, speaking for myself alone, speaking as a layman, speaking as a lawyer, speaking as one without authority, as to the Christian church, or the body of the people known as the Disciples, that never in the history of the world did a people have so great a leader, and never a leader have so ungrateful a people. I can only account for their treatment of Bethany College on this basis: As Moses was taken up into Nebo's lonely mountain and buried, and no man knew of the sepulcher lest they might come and worship him, so to-day, the people known as the Disciples have such a contempt for the term Campbellism, or Campbellite, that they wish to obliterate Bethany College for fear that men will lose sight of the gospel Mr. Campbell preached and worship Mr. Campbell himself.

A few weeks since I attended near my home in St. Louis, a Presbyterian church, small in number, and anything else but rich in this world's goods, and yet I found in the pews of that

church an envelope, and on that envelope these words: "Subscription for Park College, during the month of September." This is an illustration of Presbyterianism. In all periods of their membership rich and poor alike have subscribed liberally to their educational institutions. In a Presbyterian pulpit can always be found a man of brains, a man of intellect, a man of education.

Bethany College will be properly endowed when its friends cease traveling around after the rich men, waiting, as we have been, for fifty years for some of them to die and leave some of their, perhaps, ill-gotten gains to Bethany; and when the great brotherhood of Disciples set apart a day on which we intend to build a monument to Alexander Campbell; when the friends of all our many worthy colleges, and of our numerous one-horse institutions, put aside for one day all jealousy, and on that day put away for the time being the cause of our home and foreign missionaries, and from all over the broad land, in Australia, in Europe and in every spot of the world, where our people have a roof and a habitation, assemble on that day at a given time, and the babies and the children bring the pennies, the women their earrings and jewelry, and the men their pocketbooks, and all for a monument to Alexander Campbell; then, and not till then, will Bethany College be endowed.

BISHOP CAMPBELL EULOGIZED.

For one, let me say, I have never had any antipathy for the word Campbellite. In fact, I am inoculated with Campbellism from "skin to core and from core back to skin again."

Do you know what the greatest military hero of either ancient or modern times said of Alexander Campbell? Well, I will tell you.

Do you know what one of the ablest editorial writers of our age, a man whose prose and verse will last as long as language lasts, said of Alexander Campbell? Well, I will tell you.

Do you know what the greatest orator of the age, the man upon whose lips hung listening sentences, said of Alexander Campbell? Well, I will tell you.

Do you know what the ablest statesman and the most learned constitutional writer ever produced in this country and any time said of Alexander Campbell? Well, I will tell you. Gen. Robert E. Lee, (no matter what you may think of the cause for which he fought, the purity of his character is unquestioned and his name is linked with immortality) said of Alexander Campbell, that if he had been translated to heaven the angels in associating with him would form a better opinion of poor frail humanity.

George D. Prentice, the gifted child of genius, in an editorial in the *Louisville Journal*, in 1835, said of Alexander Campbell:

"Alexander Campbell is unquestionably one of the most extraordinary men of our time. Putting wholly out of view his tenets, with which we, of course, have nothing to do, he claims, by virtue of his intrinsic qualities, as manifested in his achievements, a place among the very foremost spirits of the age. His energy, self reliance and self fidelity, if we may use the expression, are of the stamp which belongs only to the world's first leaders in thought or action. His personal excellence is certainly without a stain or shadow. His intellect, it is scarcely too much to say, is among the clearest, richest, profoundest ever vouchsafed to man. Indeed, it seems to us that in the faculty of abstract thinking—in, so to say, the sphere of pure thought—he has few, if any, rivals. Every cultivated person of the slightest metaphysical turn who has heard Alexander Campbell, in the pulpit or in the social circle, must have been especially impressed by the wonderful facility with which his faculties move in the highest plane of thought. Ultimate facts stand forth as boldly in his consciousness as sensations do in that of most other men. He grasps and handles the highest, subtlest, most comprehensive principles as they were the liveliest impressions of the senses. No poet's soul is more crowded with imagery than his is with the ripest forms of thought. Surely the life of a man thus excellent and gifted is a part of the common treasure of society. In his essential character he belongs to no sect or party, but to the world."

Henry Clay, the "Harry of the west," the malapropos of the slushes, the idol of a great political party, worshipped as no man before or since has been worshipped, was one of the moderators of the Rice-Campbell debate, in 1842, and forgot his position as moderator, in fact he violated it by approvingly waving his hand, so carried away was he by the eloquence and genius of the great man.

Five years later learning that Mr. Campbell, was going to Europe, he voluntarily sent him the following letter:

"The Rev. Dr. A. Campbell, the bearer hereof, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the commonwealth of Virginia, being about to make a voyage to Europe and to travel particularly in Great Britain, Ireland and France, I take great satisfaction in strongly recommending him to the kind offices and friendly reception and treatment of all persons with whom he may meet wherever he may go. Dr. Campbell is among the most eminent citizens of the United States, distinguished for his great learning and ability for his successful devotion to the education of youth, for his piety, and as the head and founder of one of the most important and respectable religious communities in the United States. Nor have his great talents been exclusively confined to the religious and literary walks in which he has principally moved; he was a distinguished member, about twenty years ago, of the convention called in the State of Virginia to remodel its civil constitution, in which, besides other eminent men, were ex-Presidents Madison and Monroe and John Marshall, the late Chief Justice of the United States. Dr. Campbell, whom I have the honor to regard personally as my friend, carries with

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him my wishes and prayers for his health and happiness whilst abroad, and for his safe return to his country, which justly appreciates him so highly. H. CLAY."

"Ashland, Kentucky, May, 1847."

James Madison, delegate to the Continental Congress, member of the Constitutional Convention, the greater portion of which wonderful instrument he was the framer; author of 28 articles in the *Federalist*—James Madison said of Alexander Campbell, after serving with him in the Constitutional Convention of Virginia in 1830, "I regard him as the ablest and most original expounder of the scriptures I ever heard."

I therefore say that for me the term Campbellite, is no insult, for I believe Alexander Campbell, was the greatest in intellect and the purest in character of any being that has touched this globe since the last Apostle left it. I do not believe in hero worship, but if I did I would go to Bethpage tonight, and on yonder hillside, with a heart full of love, with a heart full of gratitude, I would kneel at the grave of Alexander Campbell.

BETHANY'S FUTURE.

Students of Bethany College: In conclusion allow me to say that none of us know the fate of this institution.

One of your own poets has placed in verse and song the inquiry:

"Where will Bethany College be When a hundred years have rolled away?"

If my memory serves me right, the poet leaves the question unanswered. It is well, for no voice comes back from the echoless shore.

We can only hope and pray that in a hundred years from now, when the traveler rounds the point at the old toll-gate he may not point in derision and exclaim:

"In once the palaces where the Caesars dwelt Sit countless now the birds of night."

But may the old belfry still kiss the rising sun—may the morning prayers still ascend as sweet incense to heaven, and in the war of the future, in which ignorance, vice and superstition and science, falsely so called, shall be arrayed against art, literature, culture and Christianity, may Bethany college be the citadel around which the heaviest battles are to be fought and the victory won for God, our country and our native land.

CHILE ISN'T MAD

Enough at Us to Prevent Her Coming to the Fair—Naval Preparations in this Country.

SANTIAGO, Nov. 8.—The minister of foreign relations has assured Lieutenant Harlow that the Chilean government will send an exhibit to the World's Fair. The minister declared that one of the first measures which would be introduced at the coming session of congress would be a bill asking that a generous appropriation be granted for the purpose of having Chile fully and handsomely represented.

A dispatch from Brooklyn says: One hundred men were working last night at the navy yard on the Chicago, Main-tonah and Atlanta, and passes have been issued for as many more to-day. This is said to be the first time since the War of the rebellion that workmen have been employed on war vessels in the navy yard on Sunday.

By way of Cincinnati, it is learned that the United States gunboat *Petal*, now at Sandy Hook under orders to proceed to China, via Gibraltar, has received a change of orders to proceed to China via Chile, and will start very soon. This news, received at Cincinnati by private intelligence, is believed to be thoroughly trustworthy.

A dispatch from Washington says: Senor Pedro Montt, the Chilean minister, returned to Washington from New Orleans, accompanied by his wife and the following members of the legation, who have just arrived from Chile: Amal Crisostomo, Guillermo Amunategui and Valentine Del Campo. Minister Montt received a cable message from Chilean congress composed as follows: Liberals, senators, 21; deputies, 56. Conservatives, senators, 5; deputies, 33. Liberal majority on joint ballot, 43. The message also said that the Conservative directory, the Liberal assembly and the electors assembled at Santiago to-day declared that they would vote for Captain Jorge Montt as President of Chile. The message says that Captain Montt accepted the office, and thereby assured the actual and future stability of the constitutional government.

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The uglier a show manager is the more he insists upon having his picture printed on all the bills.—*Albion Globe*.

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Justice is blind, but not so much so as the man who goes to law with the idea that he is sure to get justice.—*Texas Siftings*.

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The senior editor of the *Herald* and wife are now using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for throat troubles, and the result is gratifying, says W. L. Lyall & Son, publishers of the *Herald*, Houston, Mo. This remedy gained a great reputation during the epidemic of La Grippe, and has since been a favorite for colds and like throat and lung diseases. 50¢ cent bottles for sale by C. R. Goetz, W. W. Irwin, John Klari, C. Schnepf, C. Menkemiller, W. S. McCullough, M. W. Heinrici, W. E. Williams, S. L. Brice, John Coleman and W. H. Williams, Wheeling, W. Va.; Bowie & Co., Bridgeport, Ohio; B. F. Peabody, Benwood, W. Va. DAW

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